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South Asia

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2 August 1982

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LD032148 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 2 Aug 82

[Speech by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, at 2 August Council of Ministers session in Kabul -- recorded]

[Summary] Esteemed comrades: The Ninth PDPA Central Committee Plenum comprehensively discussed the important duty of our party under the present conditions of our society to strengthen political work among the people's masses. The report presented by Babrak Karmal to the plenum is of great importance and it adopted specific guidelines as an important plenum document for the organizations and party and government authorities and for all members of the party, social organizations and state officials. The DRA Government led by the PDPA, will be guided by the topics set out at the plenum and its resolution concerning its duties. The question of attracting the masses and support for the party in power depends mostly on the daily work of the government organs.

"The government is obligated to be consistently at the service of the people and to deal with the masses legally, lawfully and democratically and to demonstrate this in its daily activity. The observance of revolutionary legality by the state organs, including the state information services, saradoy, the prosecutor's offices and various departments and institutions of the government who are permanently in contact with the masses, helps to further gain the confidence and trust of the people's masses in the party, the government and the revolution. Of course, maintaining revolutionary decisiveness promptly and when necessary is not only not contrary to revolutionary legality, it is implied by it."

The DRA Government makes every effort to consolidate all its efforts within the framework of democratic legality. All laws, decrees, regulations and important legal bills to date have been based on the DRA Basic Principles. In today's Council of Ministers session, too, we will discuss a number of such regulations in accordance with the requirements of work and the needs of society and the times. They will be submitted to the Revolutionary Council Presidium for final approval. Consolidation of the sovereignty and state and people's power in the regions and meeting the daily demands of the people are the principal tasks among the people's masses. Satisfying the urgent needs of the people and working to maintain their welfare will help the people to realize the benefits of the revolution and to rally around it further. Therefore, the DRA Council of Ministers is making efforts to resolve the country's major economic issues and to raise the level of agricultural and industrial production.

In addition to exploiting our own potential and resources, the economic aid of the socialist countries, in particular the Soviet Union, has an important role in improving the living conditions of our people. The all-round aid of the USSR is a reliable foundation for the future socioeconomic prosperity of our country. The government pays serious attention to the planned socioeconomic development of the country. Thus, at today's session of the Council of Ministers the implementation of the government plan and budget during the first quarter of the year will be discussed. In the course of implementing the land and water reform in the country we should do political work among the peasants and expose the subversive activities of the counterrevolutionaries who are directly opposed to the interests of the peasants, and involve the efforts of the people in solving complicated social problems. It is the permanent duty of the DRA Government to satisfy the people's basic needs and to help them further organize their daily lives. This is the way to gain the confidence of the masses.

"Large amounts of goods-in-grant have been distributed to the needy in various parts of the country. They include large-scale aid from the Soviet Union, which has donated goods worth 100 million rubles to the DRA, much of which have been freely distributed to the needy. And we recall that with gratitude."

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GANDHI MAKES STATEMENT ON TARAPUR FUEL

BK110907 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 Aug 82

[Text] The prime minister has made it clear that there is no question of any additional conditions being attached to getting nuclear fuel for the Tarapur atomic plant from France. Mrs Gandhi told the Lok Sabha today that according to an understanding reached between India and the United States during her recent visit to Washington, France will supply the fuel in place of United States within the framework of the 1963 cooperation agreement. Necessary modalities for the supply are being worked out.

About reprocessing the spent fuel in the country, the prime minister said that the United States may have some reservations about it but it does not make any difference to us. She asserted that no right has been surrendered and we shall go ahead with reprocessing as and when necessary. She categorically stated that the technological breakthrough achieved by Indian scientists in evolving an indigenous fuel has not gone waste. She said it would be wrong to say that our scientists are demoralized. Mrs Gandhi said that the talks on nuclear fuel were held at the official level and she did not discuss the subject with the French or American leaders.

In reply to another question, the prime minister informed the house that the country will become self-sufficient in heavy water by the end of this decade. She said several experiments are in progress regarding peaceful uses of atomic energy. Mrs Gandhi reiterated India's commitment to use atomic energy only for peaceful purposes.

IRAN'S RAFSANJANI MEETS GANDHI, TOURS PARLIAMENT

LD111830 Tehran IRNA in English 1657 GMT 11 Aug 82

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Aug 11, IRNA -- Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani met with Indian Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi here at noon today (Indian local time). During their meeting Rafsanjani said that he had looked forward to meeting Mrs Gandhi because she had records of anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist struggle. The Iranian Majlis speaker added that he and his peers had enacted the methods of struggle against colonialism as introduced in the letters of the late Jawaharlal Nehru, Mrs Gandhi's father. Rafsanjani also praised the Indian people's fight for independence led by the late Mahatma Gandhi. Mrs Gandhi welcomed Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani and said that she was honored to receive him as a dear guest of the Indian Government.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani, who arrived here yesterday at the head of a political, economic and parliamentary delegation from the Islamic Republic, made a visit to the Indian Parliament accompanied by Mr Balram Jakhar, the Indian speaker of Parliament. They participated in today's session of the Indian Parliament and were informed of this country's legislative procedures. During this visit the Indian parliamentarians, while welcoming the Iranian delegation, emphasised the friendly relations between the two countries and requested that their message of friendship be conveyed to Imam Khomeyni.

FURTHER ON IRANIAN DELEGATION'S ACTIVITIES

LD112206 Tehran IRNA in English 2002 GMT 11 Aug 82

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 11, IRNA -- During his 90-minute meeting with Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi here today the Iranian Majlis speaker outlined the rightful position of the Islamic Republic in relation with the Iraqi-imposed war, and the future summit conference of the nonaligned countries. He also emphasised the need for closer cooperation between the regional countries for countering the influence of the foreign powers. The two officials also deliberated on ways and means to expand political, industrial, economical and scientific cooperation between the Islamic Republic and India.

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ARMY STRENGTH GROWS; SOVIETS IN KABUL ATTACKED

BK171614 Hong Kong AFP in English 1414 GMT 17 Aug 82

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Text] New Delhi, Aug. 17 (AFP) -- The strength of the Afghan Armed Forces has dramatically increased from an estimated 30,000 to 45,000 during the last fortnight, following a government conscription drive backed by last month's announcement of the country's toughest ever draft laws.

Under the new drive, according to Western diplomats, Afghan Army patrols were active along Kabul roads rounding up prospective conscripts. Many shops are closed as their owners, fearing conscription, have either fled to the countryside or joined the ranks of the insurgents.

And with the tough new draft law making military service compulsory for all men up to age 35 and increasing the conscription period from two to three years, many government officials are failing to report to work, they said.

The law came into force on August 2 and Western diplomats, quoting unidentified informed sources in Kabul, said the drive which began on July 25 was still continuing.

Asian diplomats differed with estimates of their Western counterparts. They said the army's strength had increased by 20,000, but that the figure included recalled former soldiers. They also said that even before the conscription drive, Afghan armed strength had never fallen below 45,000.

They put the strength of the Afghan Armed Forces at 65,000 some 45,000 fewer than before the first Marxist coup in April 1978.

There was no official confirmation of the diplomatic estimates in the state-controlled Afghan news media, and the Afghan Embassy here also refused to comment on the diplomatic reports.

However, the Kabul NEW TIMES newspaper said last week that in one province alone, over 4,500 persons registered for army service during the last four months.

Western diplomats put the defection rate in the Afghan Armed Forces as high as 30 per cent and Moslem insurgents fighting the Kabul regime have often claimed that thousands of Afghan soldiers had joined their ranks with arms and ammunition -- claims which have never been confirmed by the Afghan official media.

Meanwhile, there has been an increase in reports of incidents in Kabul. Residents witnessed an explosion in the Share-naw district of the city on August 10 which blew up a Soviet personnel truck parked there, although there were no casualties.

Diplomats said on August 11-12 unusually heavy firing was heard from the district where the well fortified Soviet Embassy is situated. Moslem rebels had apparently attacked the embassy, the sources said, but were repulsed by government troops.

In another incident on the outskirts of Kabul, insurgents killed or captured an unspecified number of Soviet soldiers when their jeep was ambushed, the diplomats said, adding that the attack took place in the Deh Sabz area near the Kabul international airport.

There was no independent confirmation of the reports.

The diplomats gave sketchy reports on the military situation in Paghman near Kabul and Panjsher, the strategic valley about 100 kms (60 miles) north of the Afghan capital. Government troops were still holding on in Paghman, a former Afghan royal resort about 20 kms (12 miles) north-west of Kabul. The place was the scene of fierce fighting last month.

In Panjsher, Soviet-aided government troops were holding the valley and there was no report of any fresh clashes, the diplomats said.

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KARMAL, KESHTMAND REPLY TO BREZHNEV, TIKHONOV

LD181802 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 18 Aug 82

[Text] The following reply telegram from Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, and Soltan Ali Keshtmand, DRA chairman of the Council of Ministers, addressed to L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and Nikolay A. Tikhonov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, has been communicated to Moscow.

Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the USSR Supreme Soviet; Comrade N.A. Tikhonov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers: On behalf of the people of Afghanistan, the PDPA Central Committee, the DRA Revolutionary Council and Council of Ministers and also on our own behalf we express our deep and hearty thanks for your warm fraternal greetings on the 63d anniversary of Afghanistan's independence.

More than 60 years ago the freedom-loving people of Afghanistan in their heroic struggle against foreign colonialists defended the independence of their beloved country. The people of Afghanistan well remember that the Soviet state in those years under the leadership of V.I. Lenin, officially recognized independent and sovereign Afghanistan before any other state. Since then Afghanistan's relations with the country of the Soviets, which are based on the principles of friendship, good-neighborliness, respect for national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and reciprocal and fruitful cooperation with equal rights have been developed in the interests of the people of both countries.

Since the victory of the April Revolution in Afghanistan, relations between our countries have risen to new higher qualitative levels. The Soviet Union is loyal to its internationalist duty. It has extended and is extending selfless fraternal aid to the people of Afghanistan to safeguard the gains of the revolution against the intrigues of the enemies of our free, independent and progressive country. The Soviet Union's aid to the people of Afghanistan in building a new and just society, which has been taking place under the leadership of the PDPA, is great and valuable. The unbreakable friendship and fraternal cooperation with the Soviet Union give inspiration for new victories in the interest of our noble and proud people and in the interest of peace in the region and throughout the world.

On behalf of the people of Afghanistan, the PDPA Central Committee, the DRA Government and Revolutionary Council and also on behalf of ourselves we wish prosperity to the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Soviet Government and personally to you dear comrades, L.I. Brezhnev and N.A. Tikhonov.

[Signed] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council; Soltan Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers

GUERRILLAS TARGET SOVIET INSTALLATIONS

BK181726 Hong Kong AFP in English 1711 GMT 18 Aug 82

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, Aug. 18 (AFP) -- Moslem guerrillas, in what was seen here as changed strategy, have selected Soviet installations in Afghanistan as targets, reports from Kabul said.

According to Afghan sources here, the last week's "unusually heavy firing" around the well-guarded Soviet Embassy building as reported by Western diplomats in Kabul was "carefully planned attack" which followed raids on Soviet diplomatic quarters in the Afghan capital.

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KARMAL SPEECH ON 63D INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY

LD190846 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 19 Aug 82

[Text] Kabul, Aug 18 BAKHTAR -- Following is the text of radio telecast speech of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, delivered on the eve of the sixty-third anniversary of the regaining of the independence of Afghanistan.

Dear compatriots, sisters and brothers: Permit me, first of all, to extend to you, patriots of Afghanistan, the best greetings and wishes of the Central Committee of the PDPA, the Revolutionary Council and the Government of the DRA and myself on the occasion of the sixty-third anniversary of the regaining of the independence of Afghanistan from the claws of the bloody British imperialism. With pride and glory in grandiose history, a history full of the heroic deeds of the working people of Afghanistan, and praising the unparalleled valour of national and patriotic forces of this land who branded with shame the greatest colonialist and imperialist force of the world, I am offering my profound homage to the sacred memory of all the martyrs of the path of freedom of Afghanistan.

Compatriots, sisters and brothers: The epic of the liberatory uprising of the people of Afghanistan, which is considered as one of the most significant and unique events of its times in Asia and in its heart, and resulted in the restoration of the political independence of Afghanistan and caused the greatest colonial empire of the world, which enjoyed an incomparable superiority in respect of the armed forces, to yield will remain forever in the memory of all the patriotic people of Afghanistan and will be the source of constant pride of our people.

The victory of the people of Afghanistan in an unequal war with the British imperialism which had recently come out victorious in the imperialist war of plunder was won as a result of the national and international favourable factors, the united and broad uprising of the heroic and epic-making people of Afghanistan including Pushtuns, Tajiks, Hazaras, Baluchis, Uzbeks, Turkmen, Nuristanis and others, which was carried out in a national front with ample sacrifices, culminated in ignominious defeat for British aggressors and put an end to their domination.

It should be stressed once again that the secret of the victory of our people against the greatest colonialist power of the time lay in the unity and integrity of the ranks of the combatants of the path of freedom of the country and the unity by all the people for the cause of achieving this great and national objective.

It should be pointed out that the victory of the Great October Revolution left a great practical and moral impression on the liberation movement of our people. The defeat of British interventionists in trans-Caspian and their expulsion from the Middle East by the Soviet Red Army and the firm support of the young Soviet republic to the right of independence and sovereignty of the people of Afghanistan was a reliable bulwark for the people of Afghanistan in their struggle against the imperialist forces and ensured favourable conditions in the international context. The young Soviet state right from the time of its creation under the leadership of the great friend of the peoples of Afghanistan and the working people of the world, V.I. Lenin, extended a powerful hand of friendship and assistance to the freeborn people of Afghanistan which is a decisive factor in the preservation of the sovereignty, national independence and territorial integrity of the country against the diverse plots and conspiracies of imperialism.

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GANDHI CANCELS SCHEDULED STOPOVER IN SEYCHELLES

BK231620 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Aug 82

[Text] The scheduled technical halt at the Seychelles by Mrs Gandhi on her way back from her visit to Mauritius and Mozambique has been canceled. According to the revised official program, instead of the Seychelles, Mrs Gandhi will now leave Maputo on the morning of the 27th and return to Port Louis for a technical halt in the afternoon. After an hour's halt the prime minister will fly back home and reach New Delhi in the early hours next day.

POLICE ATTACK JOURNALISTS PROTESTING PRESS BILL

BK211605 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Aug 82

[Text] In Patna, 182 journalists were arrested today when a procession was prevented from entering the prohibited area on its way to Raj Bhawan [governor's residence]. According to a police spokesman, nine journalists were injured when policemen tried to stop them near Beni Road crossing. Two magistrates and five policemen also sustained minor injuries.

The procession was taken out this afternoon to protest against the Bihar press bill in response to the call by the journalist action committee. A spokesman of the committee alleged that the journalists were lathi [baton] charged when they wanted to go to Raj Bhawan to hand over a memorandum to the governor against the Bihar press bill.

Meanwhile, nine editors of the Urdu dailies and weeklies had supported the Bihar press bill.

Police Action Criticized

BK220646 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Aug 82

[Text] A number of journalist bodies and leaders have criticized the alleged police lathi charge on the silent procession of journalists in Patna yesterday. However, a police spokesman denied the journalists were lathi charged. He told the United News of India in Patna that police had made a barricade with lathis to stop the journalists from entering prohibited area.

Meanwhile, 11 Bihar legislators have also criticized the alleged incident. All the arrested journalists were later released in the night. Nine editors of Urdu dailies and weeklies have supported the Bihar press bill. In a joint statement, they expressed concern over the growing tendencies of yellow journalism and alleged that some opposition parties are using it to tarnish the image of the government.

Newsmen Demand Inquiry

BK230455 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Aug 82

[Text] In Patna, the Bihar working journalists union yesterday took out a silent procession and submitted a memorandum to the state governor demanding a high level inquiry into Saturday's alleged lathi [baton] charge on the journalists. The memorandum also demanded suspension of concerned police officials and payment of compensation to the injured. Working journalists associations of some states have criticized the alleged incident.

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PROTEST TO PRC OVER BORDER PACT WITH PAKISTAN

BK251356 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 25 Aug 82

[Text] India has lodged a protest with China over the protocol signed with Pakistan on opening the Kunjerab Pass on the Karakoram highway in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

A spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs, while replying to questions from newsmen, said that this was done orally when the Chinese ambassador in India called on Joint Secretary Ranjit Sethi in New Delhi today.

As reported earlier, India has also lodged a protest to Pakistan against the protocol on the opening of the Kunjerab Pass. India has also protested against the establishment of border post in that pass.

SPOKESMAN: NONALIGNED VENUE AWAITS CONSENSUS

BK251618 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Aug 82

[Text] A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry told newsmen in New Delhi today that India would start preparations for the nonaligned summit only after the consensus of the movement about the venue is reached. Replying to questions, he said India is prepared to host the summit and some preliminary thinking has already been done in the matter. He said intensive talks had already been held on the subject in New York recently. The Coordinating Bureau is expected to meet during this week or the next by which time the consensus is likely to emerge.

COMMERCE MINISTER SPEAKS ON TRADE WITH IRAN

BK260405 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Aug 82

[Text] Commerce Minister Shiv Raj Patil has said in Dubayy that India's trade with Iran last year was in the region of 5 billion rupees but there was scope for further increase in two-way trade. Patil, who was speaking to newsmen during a brief stopover in Dubayy, identified tea, rice, sugar and vegetable oil as the commodities which have a ready market in Iran. Patil, who is leading a 17-member delegation to Iran, explored the ways to strengthen bilateral economic ties.

SANJAY GANDHI'S WIDOW TO FORM NEW POLITICAL PARTY

BK251155 Hong Kong AFP in English 1138 GMT 25 Aug 82

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 25 (AFP) -- Maneka Gandhi, widow of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's younger son Sanjay, today announced that her "Sanjay Vichar Manch" (Forum of Sanjay's Thoughts) group was shortly to be converted into a formal rival political party to the ruling Congress.

She also announced at a press conference here that two members of parliament belonging to the prime minister's party had decided to support her 4-month-old forum and sit as independents in the national legislature.

But neither of the MP's -- Kalpanath Sonkar and Ramnarayan Tripathi, both from Mrs Gandhi's home state of Uttar Pradesh -- were available for comment when contacted at home by phone.

The forum came into being shortly after Maneka abruptly quit her mother-in-law's official residence in March after a row with Mrs Gandhi.

The two were reported to have had a sharp exchange over Maneka's attendance at a public function organised by a youth faction supporting her late husband despite a strict directive by the ruling party high command, headed by Mrs Gandhi, against the rally.

Mrs Gandhi is the chairman of her party. Maneka, 25, has since been slowly but steadily working to build herself up into a political rival of her mother-in-law.

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NUR AHMAD NUR ATTENDS TRADE UNION PLENUM

LD240621 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 24 Aug 82

[Text] Kabul, August 23, BAKHTAR -- The fifth plenum of the Central Council of the Trade Unions of the DRA was here today.

The plenum was attended by the heads of the trade unions of the provinces and members of the central inspection commission, Nur Ahmad Nur, member of Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA, Dip, Eng. Esma'il Danesh, alternate member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the PDPA, and cadres and activists of social organisations.

The plenum was first addressed by Nur Ahmad Nur. Later, Satar Purdeli, the alternate member of the Central Committee of the PDPA and president of the Central Council of the Trade Unions of the DRA, read the main report of the meeting on the duties of the trade organisations.

MUJAHIDIN AMBUSH SOVIET CONVOYS, DESTROY 3 TANKS

GF242010 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 22 Aug 82 p 8

[Text] London, 21 Aug (AAP) -- Afghan freedom fighters have destroyed three Soviet tanks and five fuel tankers and captured one Soviet soldier armed with a Kalashnikov. The "Ettehad-e Eslami" mujahidin, tipped off by their collaborators in the Afghan Army that a military convoy would be moving along the Qandahar-Herat road, laid mines on the road near Pashmul and waited for the promised convoy. When the convoy passed over the mined road, the explosions destroyed two tanks. The mujahidin hiding along the road fired rockets at the convoy and, after a heated exchange of fire, captured one Soviet soldier armed with a Kalashnikov. Later, the mujahidin returned to their mountain hideouts.

On the same day, the mujahidin waylaid another Soviet convoy of fuel tankers traveling from Herat to Qandahar. The convoy hit the mined road near (Sang Sahar) and one Soviet tank was destroyed. The rockets fired by the mujahidin ignited five fuel tankers. Late at night, when the mujahidin returned to inspect the damage, they found the destroyed tank and five burned-out fuel tankers. The guerrillas removed one machinegun and two Kalashnikovs from the tank. The mujahidin suffered no casualties in either attack.

Later, when the Soviets were towing their destroyed tank toward Herat on the way to the Soviet border, the salvage party captured 50 sheep belonging to a shepherd near Towraghondi, butchered them and carried away the meat. The shepherd, who later complained to the local Karmal administration for redress, was harshly told that if he persisted in his demand, he would be thrown into prison for sympathizing with the mujahidin guerrillas. The shepherd returned without redress.

KARMAL ACCEPTS APPOINTMENT OF NEW IRAQI ENVOY

LD240558 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 24 Aug 82

[Text] Kabul, August 23, BAKHTAR -- Babrak Karmal, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, has accepted the assignment of Zaki Abdul Hamid al-Haba as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Iraq in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

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